

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

OWEN HARTY, Individually,	:	
	:	
Plaintiff,	:	
	:	
v.	:	Case No.
	:	
I.G. WYNNEWOOD ASSOCIATES, A	:	
Pennsylvania Limited Partnership,	:	
WYNNEWOOD INVESTMENT GROUP, A	:	
Pennsylvania Business Entity, and WHOLE	:	
FOODS MARKET GROUP, INC., A Delaware	:	
Corporation,	:	
	:	
Defendants.	:	
	:	

COMPLAINT
(Injunctive Relief Demanded)

Plaintiff, OWEN HARTY, Individually, on his behalf and on behalf of all other individuals similarly situated, hereby sues Defendants, I.G. WYNNEWOOD ASSOCIATES, A Pennsylvania Limited Partnership, WYNNEWOOD INVESTMENT GROUP, A Pennsylvania Business Entity, and WHOLE FOODS MARKET GROUP, INC., A Delaware Corporation, for Injunctive Relief, and attorney’s fees, litigation expenses, and costs pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12181 *et seq.* (“ADA”).

1. Plaintiff is a Florida resident, lives in Broward County, is sui juris, and qualifies as an individual with disabilities as defined by the ADA. Plaintiff is paralyzed from the waist down and is bound to ambulate in a wheelchair. Plaintiff travels frequently to the Philadelphia metropolitan area to visit his niece, attend gun shows, and maintain his business and client contacts.

2. Defendants' property, West Wynnewood Plaza, 333-339 E. Lancaster Avenue, Wynnewood, PA 19096, is located in the County of Montgomery.
3. Venue is properly located in the EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA because venue lies in the judicial district of the property situs. Defendants' property is located in and does business within this judicial district.
4. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 28 U.S.C. § 1343, this Court has been given original jurisdiction over actions which arise from Defendants' violations of Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12181 *et seq.* See also 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202.
5. Plaintiff has visited the property which forms the basis of this lawsuit and plans to return to the property to avail himself of the goods and services offered to the public at the property, and to determine whether the property has been made ADA compliant. Plaintiff has encountered architectural barriers at the subject property which discriminate against him on the basis of his disability and have endangered his safety. These barriers also prevent Plaintiff from returning to the property to enjoy the goods and services available to the public. Plaintiff is also a tester for the purpose of asserting his civil rights and monitoring, ensuring, and determining whether places of public accommodation are in compliance with the ADA.
6. Plaintiff has suffered and will continue to suffer direct and indirect injury as a result of Defendants' discrimination until Defendants are compelled to comply with the requirements of the ADA. Plaintiff is deterred from, and is denied the opportunity to participate and benefit from the goods, services, privileges, advantages, facilities and accommodations at

Defendants' property equal to that afforded to other individuals. Plaintiff is aware that it would be a futile gesture to attempt to visit Defendants' property if he wishes to do so free of discrimination.

7. Defendants own, lease, lease to, or operate a place of public accommodation as defined by the ADA and the regulations implementing the ADA, 28 CFR 36.201(a) and 36.104.

Defendants are responsible for complying with the obligations of the ADA. The place of public accommodation that Defendants own, operate, lease or lease to is known as West Wynnewood Plaza, 333-339 E. Lancaster Avenue, Wynnewood, PA 19096.

8. Plaintiff has a realistic, credible, existing and continuing threat of discrimination from Defendants' non-compliance with the ADA with respect to this property as described, but not necessarily limited to, the allegations in paragraph 10 of this Complaint. Plaintiff has reasonable grounds to believe that he will continue to be subjected to discrimination in violation of the ADA by Defendants. Plaintiff desires to visit West Wynnewood Plaza not only to avail himself of the goods and services available at the property, but also to assure himself that this property is in compliance with the ADA so that he and others similarly situated will have full and equal enjoyment of the property without fear of discrimination.
9. Defendants have discriminated against Plaintiff by denying him access to, and full and equal enjoyment of, the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or accommodations of the subject property, as prohibited by 42 U.S.C. § 12182 *et seq.*
10. Defendants have discriminated, and are continuing to discriminate, against Plaintiff in violation of the ADA by failing to, *inter alia*, have accessible facilities by January 26, 1992 (or January 26, 1993, if Defendants have 10 or fewer employees and gross receipts of

\$500,000 or less). A preliminary inspection of West Wynnewood Plaza has shown that violations exist. These violations include, but are not limited to:

- a. Defendants fail to adhere to a policy, practice and procedure to ensure that all goods, services and facilities are readily accessible to and usable by the disabled.
- b. Defendants fail to maintain its features to ensure that they are readily accessible and usable by the disabled.
- c. There is a lack of compliant, accessible route connecting the disabled parking spaces with all the goods, services and facilities of the property, with excessive slopes, non-compliant curb approaches, non-compliant changes in level, non-compliant ramps, obstructions, hazards on ground surfaces, unsecured floor mats. Defendants' failure to provide a compliant accessible route connecting all essential elements of the facility makes it difficult or impossible for Plaintiff to access the goods and services offered at the facility.
- d. There is an insufficient number of compliant parking spaces and access aisles, with missing signage, obstructions, missing access aisles, excessive slopes. The lack of compliant parking makes it difficult, unsafe and/or impossible for Plaintiff to locate accessible parking, transfer from his vehicle to his wheelchair, and access the shopping center.
- e. There are non-compliant restrooms, with improperly located amenities, inaccessible commodes, lack of compliant grab bars, inaccessible sinks, unwrapped pipes, poorly wrapped pipes, insufficient maneuvering space, obstructions. The non-compliant,

violative and inaccessible features in the public restrooms make it difficult or impossible for Plaintiff to use the restrooms for their intended purpose.

11. The discriminatory violations described in paragraph 10 are not an exclusive list of Defendants' ADA violations. Plaintiff requires an inspection of Defendants' place of public accommodation in order to photograph and measure all of the discriminatory acts violating the ADA and all of the barriers to access. Plaintiff, and all other individuals similarly situated, have been denied access to, and have been denied the benefits of services, programs and activities of Defendants' buildings and facilities, and have otherwise been discriminated against and damaged by Defendants because of Defendants' ADA violations, as set forth above. Plaintiff and all others similarly situated will continue to suffer such discrimination, injury and damage without the immediate relief provided by the ADA as requested herein. In order to remedy this discriminatory situation, Plaintiff requires an inspection of Defendants' place of public accommodation in order to determine all of the areas of non-compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
12. Defendants have discriminated against Plaintiff by denying him access to full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages and/or accommodations of their place of public accommodation or commercial facility in violation of 42 U.S.C. § 12181 *et seq.* and 28 CFR 36.302 *et seq.* Furthermore, Defendants continue to discriminate against Plaintiff and all those similarly situated by failing to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices or procedures, when such modifications are necessary to afford all offered goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations to individuals with disabilities, and by failing to take such efforts that may be necessary to ensure that no

individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated or otherwise treated differently than other individuals because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services.

13. Plaintiff is without adequate remedy at law and is suffering irreparable harm. Plaintiff has retained the undersigned counsel and is entitled to recover attorneys' fees, costs and litigation expenses from Defendants pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12205 and 28 CFR 36.505.
14. Defendants are required to remove the existing architectural barriers to the physically disabled when such removal is readily achievable for their place of public accommodation that have existed prior to January 26, 1992. *See* 28 CFR 36.304(a). In the alternative, if there has been an alteration to Defendants' place of public accommodation since January 26, 1992, then Defendants are required to ensure, to the maximum extent feasible, that the altered portions of the facility are readily accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities, including individuals who use wheelchairs. *See* 28 CFR 36.402. Finally, if Defendants' facility is one which was designed and constructed for first occupancy subsequent to January 26, 1993, as defined in 28 CFR 36.401, then Defendants' facility must be readily accessible to and useable by individuals with disabilities as defined by the ADA.
15. Notice to Defendants is not required as a result of Defendants' failure to cure the violations by January 26, 1992 (or January 26, 1993, if Defendants have 10 or fewer employees and gross receipts of \$500,000 or less). All other conditions precedent have been met by Plaintiff or waived by Defendants.
16. Pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12188, this Court is provided with authority to grant Plaintiff Injunctive Relief, including an order to require Defendants to alter West Wynnewood Plaza to make those facilities readily accessible and useable to Plaintiff and all other persons with

disabilities as defined by the ADA, or by closing the facility until such time as Defendants cure their violations of the ADA.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff respectfully requests:

- a. The Court issue a Declaratory Judgment that determines that Defendants at the commencement of the subject lawsuit are in violation of Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12181 *et seq.*
- b. Injunctive relief against Defendants, including an Order
 - (i) requiring Defendants to make all readily achievable alterations to the Property and to the facility operated thereon so that the Property and such facility are made readily accessible to and usable by individuals with disabilities to the extent required by the ADA;
 - (ii) requiring Defendants to make reasonable modifications in policies, practices or procedures as are necessary to afford all offered goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages or accommodations to individuals with disabilities;
 - (iii) requiring Defendants to take such steps as are necessary to ensure that no individual with a disability is excluded, denied services, segregated or otherwise treated differently than other individuals because of the absence of auxiliary aids and services; and
 - (iv) prohibiting Defendants from perpetuating any acts and practices which result in the exclusion, denial of service to or discriminatory treatment of individuals with disabilities.
- c. An award of attorneys' fees, costs and litigation expenses pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 12205.

- d. Such other relief as the Court deems just and proper, and/or is allowable under Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Respectfully Submitted,

THOMAS B. BACON, P.A.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John F. Ward", is positioned above the typed name.

By: _____
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Dated: February 22, 2016